



Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project



zMOD Status on Sign Ordinance Amendment

Development Process Committee

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Sign Ordinance Amendment

Recap of recent activity

- July – September: Board Member Discussions on 5 Major Policy Issue Areas - Electronic Display Signs, Off-site Signs, Signs in R Districts, Temporary Signs and Combining Signs in C & I Districts
 - ❑ While the amendment focuses on re-writing the entire Ordinance in content neutral terms, the 5 policy areas should be addressed at this time
- Meetings with various land use committees and other groups
- Strawman to be distributed in early October

Electronic Display Signs; Considerations

- Currently no explicit regulations
- To allow digital display boards, must consider size, height, location and illumination standards of permitted sign types
 - ☐ Should electronic displays be allowed on buildings, or limited to freestanding?
 - ☐ Limitation on height and style of freestanding signs
 - ☐ Consideration of possible setback standard to address impact in residential areas

Electronic Display Signs (cont'd)

Current Proposal:

- Freestanding signs only
- No more than 50% of permitted sign area
- No illumination standard
- Limitation on frequency and nature of screen change



Alternative Option:

- Freestanding signs only
- No limit on the amount of the sign area devoted to electronic display
- Illumination standard
- Limitation on frequency and nature of screen change



Off-site Signs: Considerations

- Policy choice - fully embrace concept for any land use or prohibit



Off-site Signs (cont'd)

- Proposal: Prohibit off-site signs
- However, language will be included to continue allowing certain signs placed off-site by the County for economic development, public safety or to support civic purposes



Signs in Residential Districts: Considerations

- Current regulations allow signs in a residential district for a variety of non-residential uses, with varying sizes and limits
- Public uses are generally exempt from requirements



Signs in Residential Districts (cont'd)

- Proposal: Uniform standard for all non-residential land uses, including public uses such as schools:
 - ❑ Freestanding sign: one sign, 40 square feet, with a maximum height of 8 feet and minimum setback of 10 feet from all property lines
 - ❑ Building mounted signs: 50 square feet total, with no one sign exceeding 32 square feet in size

Signs in Residential Districts (cont'd)

- Alternative options – should different square footage amounts be permitted for both freestanding and building mounted signs, based on functional relationships of location and height?
- Should larger freestanding signs be allowed on bigger lots, 5-10 acres in size?
- What is the “right” amount of sign area that provides flexibility for uses but does not negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods?

Temporary Signs: Considerations

- Can no longer expressly regulate campaign or other non-commercial signs in any zoning district.
- Non-residential uses: current regulations are unclear as to the amount of temporary signs that are allowed in any zoning district.



Temporary Signs: Yard Signs (cont'd)

- Campaign and similar signs: proposing new type of temporary sign referred to as a “yard sign”
- Concern that a 32 SF yard sign, the current limit for a campaign sign, is too large, especially for residential areas
 - ☐ Cap the maximum size of any one sign?
 - ☐ Limit overall number of signs?
- Proposed timeframe: 90 days

Temporary Signs: Yard Signs (cont'd)

- Are there some temporary signs that should be allowed in residential areas on an *unlimited basis*?



- Proposal: allow small yard signs, from 2 to 6 square feet, on a permanent basis

Temporary Signs: Non-Residential Uses

- Proposal: permit temporary signs, either building mounted or freestanding, up to 24 square feet in size, up to 6 times per calendar year, and a maximum display period of 14 days per sign
- Alternative option: limit or prohibit freestanding temporary signs, to encourage display of allowed signs on buildings or structures
- Further discussion required concerning administration and enforcement matters

Next Steps

- Working draft being finalized, to include options for the major policy issue areas
- Draft to be distributed in early October
- Continuation of outreach effort:
 - ❑ Meetings are being scheduled with the Park Authority, School System, Board of Realtors, Chamber of Commerce, and Faith Communities in Action

Draft Schedule

- BOS Development Process Committee July 18
- Authorization of Concept by BOS July 25
- Individual Board Member Meetings July – September
- Outreach to various groups Ongoing
- Distribution of Strawman October 2017
- PC Land Use Committee October 2017
- BOS Development Process Comm. w/ text December 2017
- BOS Authorization w/ text January 2018
- Planning Commission Public Hearing February 2018
- BOS Public Hearing March 2018